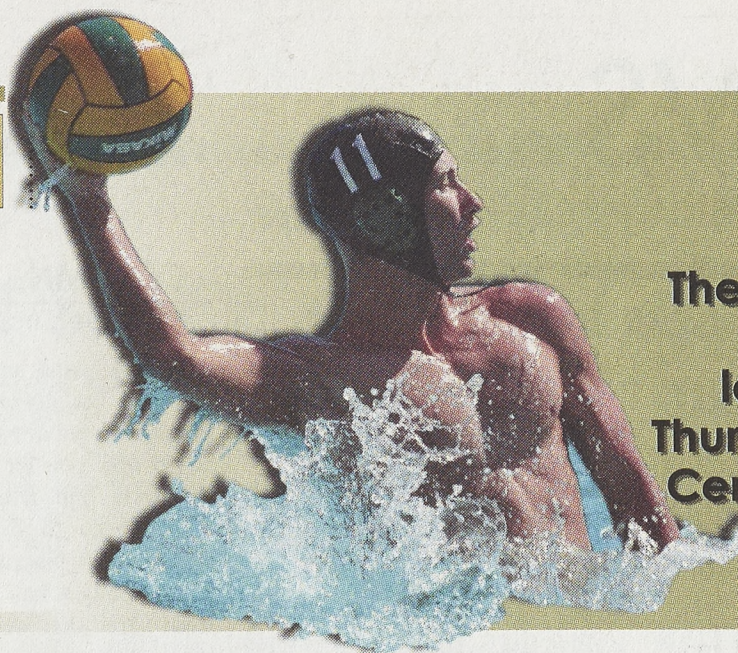


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VALLEY STAR

los angeles valley college's

the independent student newspaper

lavalleystar.com

September 22 2010

Volume 73 Issue 2

STUDENTS GET TAGGED

The TAG program provides transfer students guaranteed admission at seven UC campuses.

ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

Thanks to the Transfer Admission Guarantee, transfer students no longer have to endure the anxiety-ridden months of waiting to find out if they were accepted at the schools they applied to.

Students who meet the requirements of TAG still have time to submit their applications, but students intending to transfer Fall 2011 need to apply by September 30. Students must have their transcripts readily available in order to input all the information required for the TAG application, located online. In addition, most of the schools taking part in this program require a 3.0 GPA and 30 UC transferable units completed by the time of transfer.

"The big benefit is that all the students will know from all the schools they applied to, by the middle of November, whether or not they got in," said Valley College Counselor Synthia Saltoun. "Some of the schools will have special activities for their TAG students that they will be able to participate in throughout the year. There is also talk of assigning TAG students mentors who will help them out with the application process. Those are added benefits."

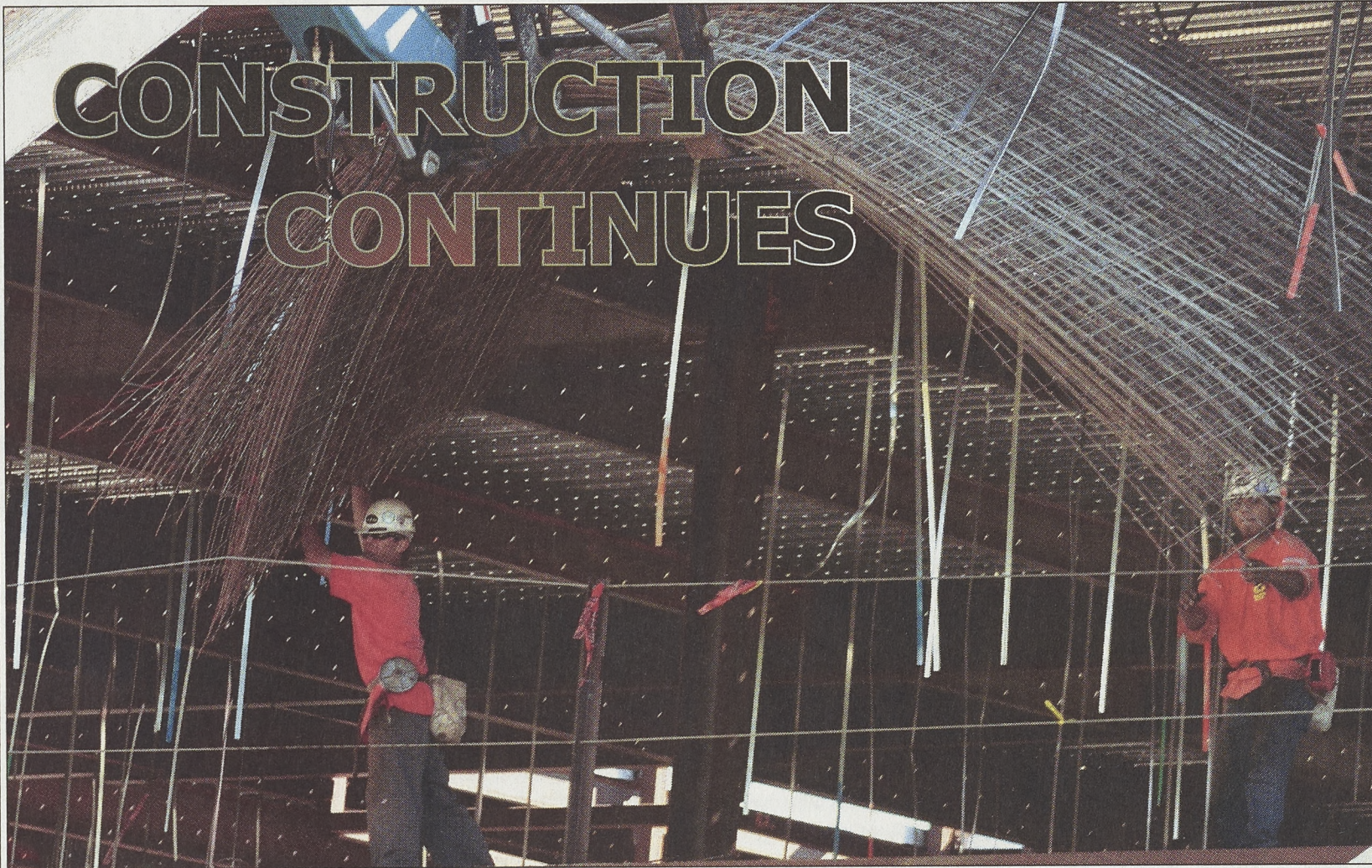
In 2009, the TAG guarantee requirements for some schools were lower than the admissions process requirements. For example, at UC Santa Barbara there were a couple of students who filled out TAG applications and were initially accepted to the school because they had between a 3.0 and 3.2 GPA. However, once they submitted their applications to the school, they found out that they were denied admission. Due to the TAG agreement, Valley's counselors were able to contact UCSB and get the transfer students admitted because the school was required to honor the TAG. UCSB ran into that problem as a result of cutting back on its enrollment. With thousands of students enrolled, the school had to raise the GPA requirement to over a 3.2.

"I think it's a great thing to do especially if they're qualified, and each one of the schools has its own set of requirements so the students have to make sure they qualify for each school they apply to," said Valley Counselor Michael Gold. "It's not often that you get a guarantee, and that's the best thing to know about it, is to know in advance that they got into the schools they applied to."

The seven UC campuses involved in this program all share the same requirements for the most part, but there are still a few different criteria for each. The University of California, Irvine requires that students have their transferrable math course done as well as English 101 before they can even write a TAG. Transfer students who want to avoid the stressful wait of finding out whether or not they were accepted to the schools they applied to should highly consider the beneficial TAG program.

The TAG application can be found online at www.uctransfer.universityofcalifornia.edu/tag. For more information, visit the Career/Transfer Center located in the Administration building and ask to speak with Synthia Saltoun.

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES



WORKING- The two-story, 93,000 square-foot, Library & Academic Resource Center has a projected completion in 2011. Six new construction projects have been completed since '05 mostly using voter-approved funds. There are nine other new construction and three renovation projects ongoing until 2014.

SAMSON UBA | VALLEY STAR

MURDER SUSPECT ON THE LOOSE

Police search area canyons after reported sightings of murder suspect. Suspect remains at-large.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
STAFF WRITER

The Los Angeles Times and NBCLA.com are reporting that police scoured the hills above Studio City on Friday in a full-fledged manhunt for 34-year-old parolee Omar Armando Loera. Loera is charged with murder, burglary, arson, and assault with a deadly weapon in connection with the July 24 slaying of Valley Village resident Cheree Osmanhodzic.

The search for Loera began on Thursday following the report of a possible sighting in Franklin Canyon (Santa Monica Mountains) by a Parks and Recreation employee who saw the suspect on a "Wanted" poster. Police responded with officers on horseback, dirt bikes and a canine unit to search and clear the canyon.

Another possible sighting was reported on Friday in nearby Fryman Canyon at Wilacre Park. Fire Station 108 on Mullholland Drive served as a command post for the search. After several possible reported sightings throughout the day failed to produce Loera, the search was suspended at approximately 6 p.m.

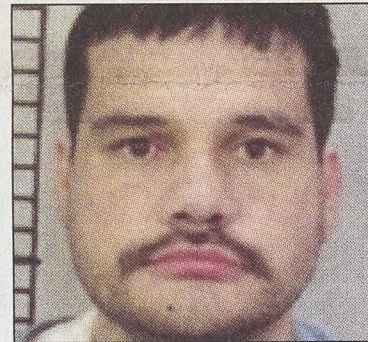
Loera was recently identified

as the sole suspect in the slaying after DNA and other unspecified evidence found at the scene provided a break in the case.

According to criminal records, Loera is a parolee who served 23 months of a 32-month prison sentence in connection with armed robbery in 2008. He is described as a heavily tattooed transient who goes by the nickname "Taz" and uses the alias Arturo Benitez.

Police say he should be considered armed and dangerous.

A \$50,000 reward is offered for information leading to Loera's arrest. Anyone with information related to the case is asked to call the LAPD North Hollywood Station at (818) 623-4016.



Sheriffs Are Welcoming Tips

The sheriff's station explains that they are now collecting tips from Valley students and residents.

JOSHUA LAWRENCE
STAFF WRITER

The new tipline released by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is for any and all incidents on campus; however, they report that they are still waiting for their first tip.

"We've had incidents where there were a few students that were inappropriately groped or fondled," said Officer Anguiano. "We hope this tip line will prevent such acts from occurring regularly."

The possibility of the tip line seems to be the bigger threat, however, as Anguiano states, "Nobody has left anything on the tip line, but we have received calls of people's cars that have gotten broken into, but nothing on the tip line."

With no anonymous tips on the hotline, the sheriff's department hopes to let the students know that help is only a phone call away. Messages are checked three times a day, once in the morning, once in the afternoon, and once during the graveyard shift. No special training is required because when the sheriff's department receives a call they handle it as any other type of call that is reporting a problem.

"If they leave a number, we'll just follow



VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

TO PROTECT AND SERVE - Officer Franco, on duty, walked into the sheriff station yesterday.

up with them and take down information," Officer Anguiano went on to say. Leaving anonymous tips, according to Anguiano, is not a problem. "If the call is an emergency we immediately follow up," said Anguiano.

The sheriff's department wants the students to be aware that they will handle every call with the proper action. As of yet, they are waiting for their first tip on the new hotline

and will continue checking the messages three times daily. No false tips have been submitted, and the sheriff's department has no problem following up with anonymous tips.

If you have seen any suspicious activity or want to report a crime the sheriff's department strongly encourages you to call their hotline at (818) 778-5678.

STUDENT TRUSTEE

Speech and
Election

*The student trustee speeches and election will be held Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Monarch Hall.
*The ASU executive council placed applicants in vacant positions last Tuesday.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



Study Habits

Tips, tricks and ways to improve your college study habits.

ONLINE SLIDESHOW

Photos of the Week:
Football Game

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

THE LOW DOWN....

WHEN THERE'S NO LESSER EVIL

Sometimes the only choice is the wrong choice.

CRISTINA
SERRATO



When the only choice is to vote for the lesser of two evils, Americans are in bind at the ballots. And many choose not to vote at all.

"It's really hard to vote for someone 'cause in the end it's like no matter who you pick, they are bad and deceived you. That's why I don't vote sometimes," said Valley College student Femi Marsopian.

The 2010 California gubernatorial election will be held on November 2, 2010 and the two primary candidates are democrat Jerry Brown and republican Meg Whitman. Since there has been so much mud-slinging, bad-mouthing and finger-pointing from both ends, it can be hard to choose a candidate that is right for California.

"I am a poll worker, but I still don't look forward to voting. Ever. But I need the money right now, so I will vote democratic, since I am registered that way," said ballot worker Mark D. "I want to feel good about [who] I vote for."

[See COLUMN, Page 2]

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

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COLUMN

Continued from page 1

They stand on two different sides of the governmental fence, however they both stand for similar issues and look for similar change. Whitman and Brown agree that there needs to be less wasteful spending in Sacramento, or that a new budget has to be outlined. Both agree that we "need to bring business back to California," and that our education system is in dire need of an overhaul. The fact that California needs to be "greener" has not been lost on them either, though they have very different approaches to dealing with the issue.

Although Whitman and Brown proposed different ways to solve the problems, they both agree we need to rectify the issues in California to return to the Golden State we once were.

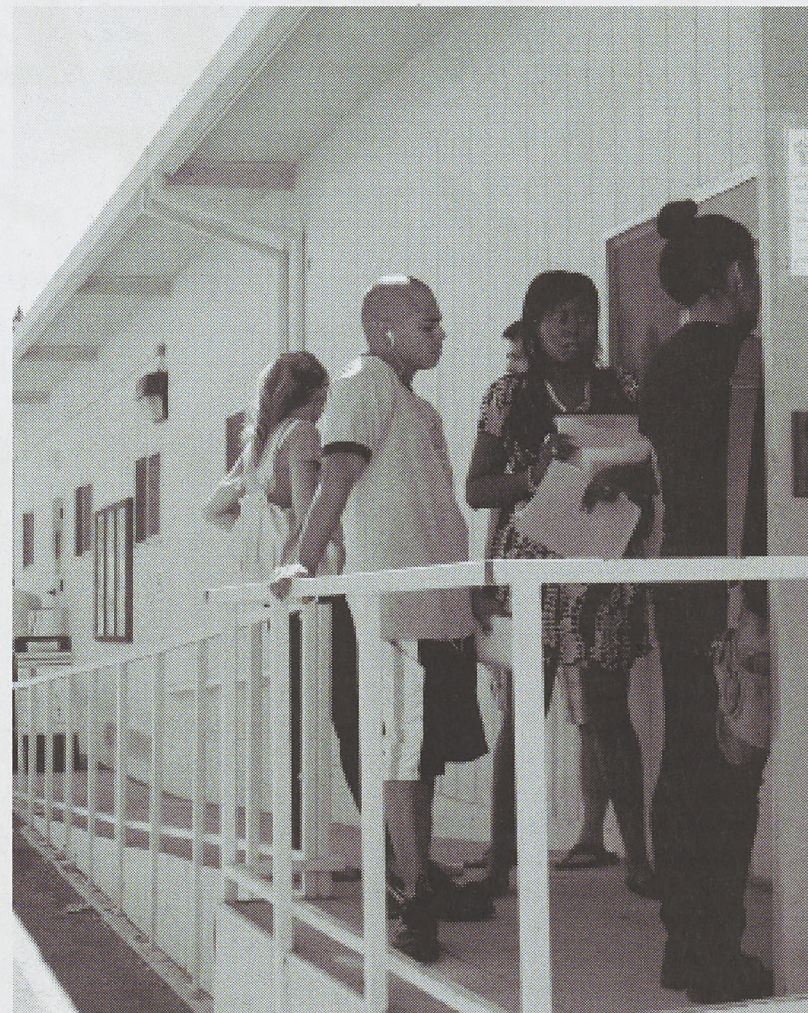
"I'm going to vote for whoever is with legalizing weed. If both of them aren't, then I'm not voting at all, screw them," said 22-year-old Jeremiah Freiss. "They just want to schmooze the White House and rich people, they don't care about the every day people."

Like Jeremiah Freiss, many are wondering where the weed is at, at

least on the list of concerns for the gubernatorial candidates.

Neither Whitman nor Brown discuss at any length or even mention on their perspective Web pages Proposition 19, the California initiative to legalize marijuana. The proposition will be on the upcoming ballot, so we can only assume that neither supports Proposition 19, after the lack of opinion on each side. The fact that 38.7 percent of people in the US have smoked marijuana at least once and as much as 50 percent have tried, or currently smoke, marijuana in California may be lost on the candidates. The "Yes on Prop 19" Facebook page has 175,335 "likes" and if a candidate could get those people and the 50 percent of Californians who tried or currently smoke reefer to vote that would mean a cut-throat win this election. That is if the voters could legally vote and remember to show up.

According to recent polls discussed on FreeRepublic.com, Proposition 19 may pass with a 50-40 percent vote. We may not be happy with our governor, but it looks like Californians will be "happier" overall. At least I know I will be.



WAITING - Students waited outside of the financial aid office last week. WINDY NICELY | VALLEY STAR

DINING AT FOOD TRUCKS AS EASY AS ABCs

An ordinance has been brought to the LA County Health Supervisors to bring the letter grading system to mobile food facilities.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

ABC's are usually associated with the first steps of a child's education; however, these three letters could change the way food trucks

in Los Angeles County are perceived.

Supervisors in LA County will be taking into consideration the "Ordinance to Amend Los Angeles County Code Title 8" better known as the letter grades that are given out to restaurants. The ordinance, which was brought to The Honorable Board of Supervisors of the Los Angeles County Health Department on September 14, focuses mainly on expanding the letter grading system to "include MFFs," or mobile

food facilities, which are better known as food trucks and food carts.

The ordinance's Purpose/Justification of Recommendation states "the proposed expansion of the letter grading programs to include MFFs will build upon the public's current understanding of the restaurant grading program and will provide a clear and easily recognizable means of distinguishing between a permitted MFF (which has a grade card) and a non-permitted MFF. Under the proposed

grading program, the public can make informed choices based on the letter grade given to an MFF."

"People were asking us, 'We go to a restaurant. We like the grading system. But what about all of these trucks that are coming? How do we know?'" said Dr. Jonathan Fielding, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Health, in a recent LA Times article.

READ THE REST ONLINE AT LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

Permanent Ban on Lethal Injections in California

Death row prisoners' executions are on hold due to defense lawyers who challenged the lethal injection procedure in 2007.

ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

Albert Greenwood Brown is on death row for the rape and murder of a 15-year-old girl in 1980. His execution date is set for Sept. 29, 2010, but according to the Marin Independent Journal he cannot be executed "unless and until" a court-ordered ban on lethal injections is lifted.

Marin County Superior Court Judge Verna Adams placed a hold on executions August 31, and is intending to indefinitely extend the ban on executions originally established by Judge Lynn O'Malley Taylor.

Marin County Judge Taylor deemed the lethal injection procedure illegal in 2007 because the state of California did not comply with the Administrative Procedures Act; the state's new procedure hadn't been subjected to a period of public comment.

The challenge to lethal injection stemmed from a supposed violation of the Eighth Amendment, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment. In 2006, lawyers who defended death-row inmate Michael Morales presented witness testi-

mony from execution logs showing lethal injection exposed the prisoners to extreme pain, and therefore was unconstitutional (Morales vs. Tilton). The witnesses said the prisoners didn't seem fully anesthetized.

The court's main concern is that inmates were conscious when injected with "chemicals which would cause an unconstitutional amount of pain if injected into a conscious person (Morales vs. Tilton)."

"The defense is obviously simply using this argument to try and stay the execution, not to make the condemned more comfortable," Valley College psychology professor Ron Mossler said. "If that were the case, they would simply be arguing for a stronger sedative. Obviously, the bigger issue is the death penalty itself."

The lethal injection procedure is a three-step chemical injection process which results in the death of the inmate in approximately seven minutes.

There are currently 3,200 prisoners across the nation on death row. Thirty-five out of the 50 states in the US perform executions and require doctors to be present during the procedure.

A poll conducted by the Field Poll in 2006, before lethal injection was barred in California, revealed that 63 percent of Californians favor keeping the death penalty for serious crimes.

"I find it incredible that one could see the taking of a life, even from a person who has committed a heinous act like a rape or murder, as not being cruel and unusual," comments Valley philosophy professor Christopher Pallotti. "A criminal justice system that offers up death as a final punishment is itself primitive, cruel and unusual—it is utterly inhumane."

According to ProDeathPenalty.com, J. Edgar Hoover, late director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said, "Have you ever thought about how many criminals escape punishment, and yet, the victims never have a chance to do that? Are crime victims in the US today the forgotten people of our time? Do they receive full measure of justice?"

In a September 15 news release from the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, District Attorney Rod Pacheco has sent a letter to California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger asking him to deny clemency for Brown. The letter asks Schwarzenegger to consider the brutality of Brown's crime and to consider how it affected the victim's family.

Meanwhile, prison officials are proceeding with the assumption that Judge Taylor's court order will be lifted by Brown's execution date. If the order is still in effect, then prison officials promise to respect it.

VALLEY STAR CORRECTION BOX

-Last week, Issue 1, the article "Too Many Students, Not

Enough Space" on page two was incorrectly attributed to staff writer Courtney Bassler. The correct reporter is Carolina Leon.

-Monarch linebacker Miguel Munoz's name was spelled incorrectly as "Miguel Muno" in the article on page 6, "Fenwick and Company."

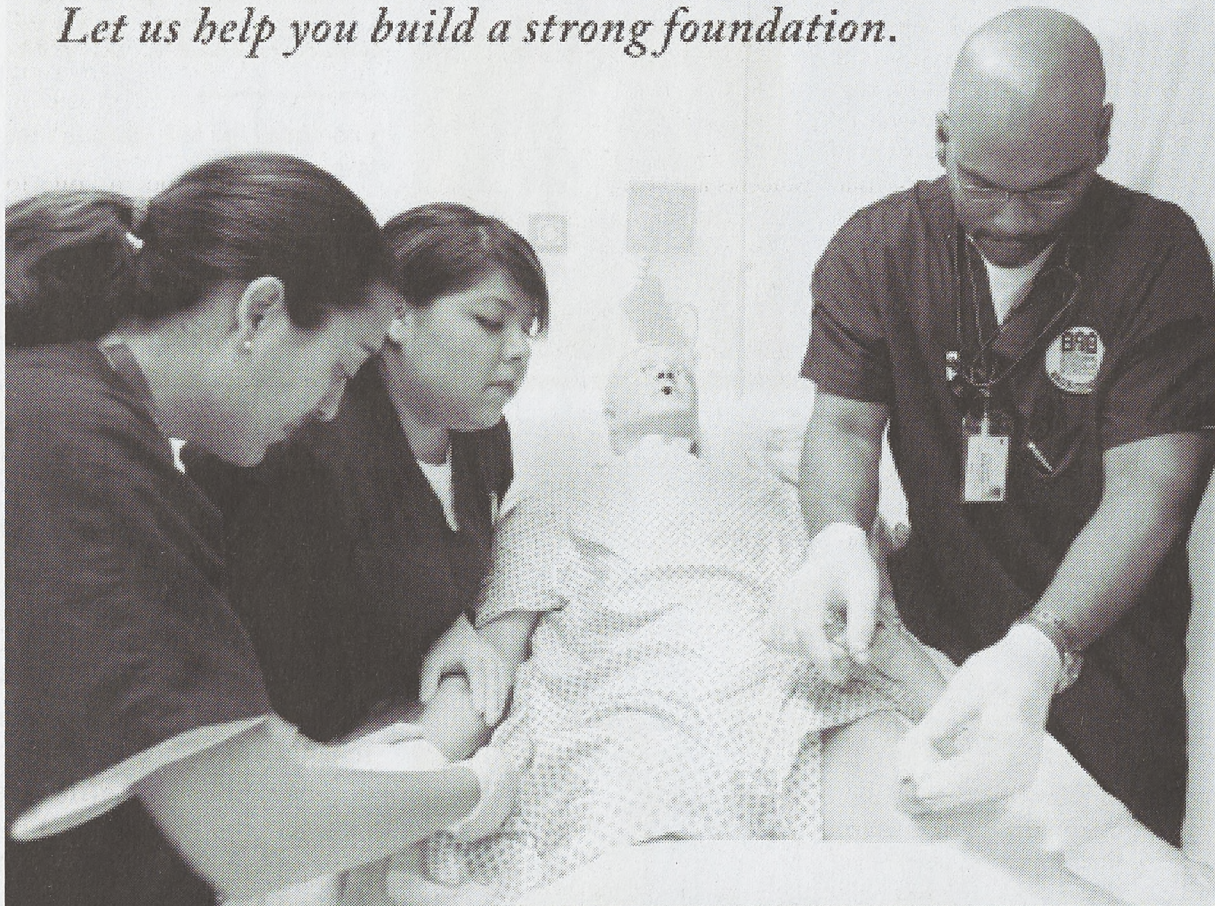
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RAPE KIT BACKLOG: REVICTIMIZING THE VICTIMS

The number of untested rape kits is down, but even one is too many.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
STAFF WRITER

It is a most unconscionable crime. A violation of the body, mind and spirit that damages a victim's dignity and self-esteem at the deepest level. Rape. A violent, terrorizing, humiliating assault that for many is initially carried out by the perpetrator, but continued by law enforcement's delay in processing crucial evidence.

Every two minutes someone is sexually assaulted in the United States. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that one in six women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. College-age women are four times more likely to become victims.

When a woman reports a rape, she is asked to undergo a forensic rape kit examination, a four- to six-hour invasive procedure, during which time her traumatized body becomes a living, breathing crime scene. Forensic nurses collect assorted DNA samples that can be used to identify an unknown perpetrator, confirm the presence of a known assailant, corroborate the victim's account of the attack, or exonerate innocent suspects. But only if they're tested.

In 2009, advocacy group Human Rights Watch found that among Los Angeles police agencies, more than 12,000 rape kits sat untested in storage facilities. Nearly 500 were so old they exceeded the statute of limitations for rape in California, making it impossible to prosecute the alleged assailants even if identified.

In response to the problem, Los Angeles City Council allocated more than \$1 million to hire additional testing staff. Although not without its share of bureaucratic setbacks, it's a good start that has helped reduce the number of untested kits to less than 2,000.

Even one untested kit is too many. If a woman is told that DNA evidence can help identify and convict her attacker, she has a reasonably inherent right to expect law enforcement to do its part in a timely manner.

Rape has the lowest reporting, arrest and prosecution rates of all violent crimes in America. When New York City began testing every kit, the arrest rate jumped from 40 to 70 percent of reported cases. Los Angeles deserves the same justice.

As a democratic society, we have a moral responsibility to face our problems and help create change. Let elected officials know you support funding and legislation to reduce the backlog of untested kits, and that Los Angeles' response to the problem can serve as a catalyst for change across the country.

As the saying goes, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

DROP OUT AND GIMME THAT SPACE ALREADY

A not-so-loving letter to my fellow students.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

As I walk into my overcrowded, stuffy and very tiny broadcasting class, I look around and promptly begin to hum the old Queen tune "Another One Bites the Dust." I relish the idea that five more students have just dropped out of my "cozy" little class.

Another one gone...

I almost hear the laugh of Cruella de Vil in my head as I fight the urge to tap my fingers together evilly. The thought of the free arm space, the extra parking spaces, fewer lines on campus, and clearer hallways all make me sickeningly giddy.

Another one gone...

I want to go to school after three hours of sleep in my pajamas with no shame; I want to wear my hair in a sloppy ponytail, sport comfortable sandals and last night's make-up without feeling like a leper. I don't care about the bags under my eyes, the fact that

I fell asleep studying and spilled coffee all over myself. But the peacock-esque students preening at each other while they walk around with perfect hair, make-up and clothes make it nearly impossible for me to enjoy my sloppiness, to wallow in the misery of my homework.

Another one bites the dust.

Just stop your preening; become overwhelmed already, please realize how hard college really is, know that the professor that hates you this week will still hate you next week. Drop out today, you don't have to wait

for the deadline day. I need your parking space, I'm tired of my elbows rubbing yours in class and if I have to see another cheery well-slept face again I'm going to scream.

This is college, you're supposed to learn so much your brain hurts, you're supposed to live off lattes and bad pizza, and you're supposed to juggle it all with a part time job. If you're not doing that, then you're not a decent student, own up to it and drop out.

Please, because I really need your parking space.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS ACT

Proposed SB1381 will help make sure children are ready to start kindergarten.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

Think back to when you were 4 years old. You were most likely playing with Barbies or Legos, your sentences were short, and reading books seemed like a challenge.

Today students "are expected to be able to write three sentences with punctuation, read simple sentences and at least 50 words on sight, do simple addition and subtraction, and understand concepts of social studies and science," according to Carla Rivera's Los Angeles Times article.

Children can now enter kin-

dergarten at the age of 4, but with the passage of SB 1381, The Kindergarten Readiness Act, children would have to be 5 years old.

The bill, which still needs to be signed by the governor states, "A child shall be admitted to a kindergarten maintained by the school district at the beginning of a school year, or at a later time in the same year if the child will have his or her fifth birthday on or before one of the following dates: Dec. 2 of the 2010-2011 school year, Nov. 1 of the 2012-2013 school year, Oct. 1 of the 2013-2014 school year, and Sept. 1 of the 2014-2015 school year and each school year thereafter."

Starting kids younger than five can have many physical and emotional effects on them. According to Kathleen Stassen Berger, PhD,

most 4-year-olds' motor skills aren't as strong as a 5-year-olds'.

"You should see the stress on these little ones when asked to know numbers to 30, read and write sentences, and know the difference between a cone, sphere and a cube. They chew shirts, suck thumbs, and fall out of chairs with the pressure—not to mention cry," said kindergarten teacher, Ellen Herdegen.

This bill would provide a transitional kindergarten for the kids who have birthdays in the fall, creating an in-between grade level for about 120,000 4-year-old students.

Transitional kindergarten programs would be taught by credentialed teachers and focus on fine motor skills such as counting and writing.

Changing the cut-off date to



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY: WINDY NICELY

start kindergarten could save the state \$700 million a year by having 100,000 less kindergarteners around, therefore the school districts could pay for the transitional programs, which would benefit all.

OLD-FASHIONED WEIGHT LOSS

Losing weight without surgery or pills is a reality. With a strong diet and routine exercise, the pounds will truly come off.

MICHAEL MKERCHYAN
STAFF WRITER

Our fad-minded society has got a lot of people believing that the only ways to be thinner are to have the fat sucked from your body, go under a surgeon's knife, or even starving yourself.

But shedding the pounds and inches without undergoing a surgical procedure, following a very hazardous diet, or ingesting pills is a real possibility. There must be a strong and rational diet, a tenacious exercise regimen, and endless determination.

When asked what he thinks are the best ways to lose weight, Valley College student Taylor Troxter said, "I used to weigh 300 pounds. Basically, all I do is lift weights and go on walks twice a week. I started eating a lot of salads, and I stopped eating breads."

Diet and workout plans like that one are ideal, but the sad reality of life is that many people make radically unhealthy choices while seeking a thinner body, choices that will only hurt them.

In the book "The Ultimate Weight Solution: the 7 Keys to Weight Loss Freedom," Dr. Phil McGraw said, "It's about changing yourself from the inside out, so that being fit and healthy for you is as natural and as normal as breath-

ing." His views on exercising are that, "There is absolutely no way you can control your weight without it." The idea is to eat high-yield foods, some of which are "colorful fruits and vegetables—red, purple, orange, yellow, green—whole grains, eggs, fish, lean meats, legumes, tofu, non-fat milk products, soy products, water, herbal tea, and soup."

Upon being asked about his idea of the perfect diet, Valley student Jonathan Miranda said, "Cut out all the greasy and fatty foods, no more take-out, and have water."

When the weight starts to come off, there are feelings of happiness that come about which were always strangely absent. That is not an implication that only thin people are happy. The simple truth for anyone that is or has ever been struggling with weight is that when you slim down, you have succeeded in a task that for a long time seemed to be insurmountable. After some weight has come off, other tasks in life such as getting an education, going to work, pursuing romantic relationships, even more weight loss, and a myriad of other things seem somehow more achievable. It all comes from the confidence people have when they make substantial, healthy, and happy changes to life.



VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

LOVE YOUR BOOBIES, HELP RAISE AWARENESS

The controversial "I Love Boobies" campaign is stimulating interest and attention everywhere.

NARINE PETROSYAN
STAFF WRITER

First "WWJD"—What Would Jesus Do?—then "Live Strong," and now "I Love Boobies," is wrapped around the wrists of many young people. Similar to the Save the Tatas campaign, these bracelets hope to bring appreciation and understanding to breast cancer awareness. But many are concerned that the controversy only takes away from the true message.

Created by the Keep-A-Breast Foundation, these bracelets are a really smart and innovative strategy for marketing awareness. The bracelets allow people who normally don't think about those suffering from breast cancer to really get a chance to learn about it and potentially prevent it in the future. Others wear these bracelets because they can relate to or are passionate about the cause.

"I wear the bracelet not only because I like the colors and design of it, but because it reminds me of my mom who suffered from breast cancer and I can tell the story every time I get asked or complimented on my bracelets," said 20-year-old Jane Green.

However, to every positive idea, there is always a negative that

follows. There are people, such as testosterone-driven boys who just enjoy showcasing the statement "I Love Boobies."

"Boobies are great, they produce milk for babies, make girls look great and I just love them, so when I saw a bracelet that says 'I love boobies,' I had to get it," said 18-year-old Henry Mendez. "Then when I found out they were to support breast cancer, I thought, 'Oh even better' and felt good about myself."

It's this kind of thought process that causes the controversy of whether these bracelets actually serve the purpose of raising awareness or if they only create a nuisance.

Some school districts are considering banning the bracelets. Fern Ridge and Bethel school districts in Oregon have already banned them. Students are being told to turn their bracelets inside out in order to avoid the sexual connotation of the word "boobies."

"What happened to wearing a simple pink bow? And why don't we have bracelets with other cancers such as colon or brain?" asked previous middle school teacher Janet Kasmanian.

What happened is that it takes more than just a bow to attract the attention of young people and spark up a conversation. Informing kids about cancer at an early age will lead to a better understanding of other cancers. Young people are interested in being bold and creative, and these bracelets are just that. There will always be people who do and say things for the wrong reason, but society should start focusing more on the good side of things, rather than ignoring the fact that kids might have the same vision but in a different light.

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID ...

ESCHEWING OBFUSCATION

The Midwestern girl who yearned for culture growing up now yearns for familiar diction.

KELLY DAVIS



When I walked into the first day of my calculus class my freshman year of college, I realized I had made a grave error. I'd come to class without my trusty translator. Much to my dismay, I quickly learned that although my professor was most likely fluent in calculus, he certainly was not fluent in English.

I hadn't taken a math class my senior year of high school so I already had a lot of brushing up to do and I certainly did not anticipate the challenge of brushing up in a foreign language. Sure, I had taken a couple years of French and a couple years of Spanish in high school, but my professor certainly was not speaking those languages either.

To this day, I'm still not certain what language he was speaking or if in fact he was actually speaking. His manner of communication sounded much more like grunting and clicking and non-phonetic noises reverberating from his vocal cords.

The university must have mixed my test scores up with someone else's because I'm not sure why else they would have thought it was a good idea to place me in a calculus class. I didn't speak calculus. And I certainly wasn't about to embark on trying to learn to speak and master calculus in a foreign tongue.

I lasted a total of about seven minutes in that class before I marched my bewildered butt right out and into the office of my guidance counselor, demanding that she put me in different math class.

Since I've been at Valley College, I've been lucky enough not to have any professors with accents so thick I couldn't tell if they were speaking or having some sort of epileptic attack. Which is extremely surprising seeing as I'm now enrolled in school in Los Angeles, a cultural melting pot.

It saddens me a bit to acknowledge that the very thing I love most about Los Angeles is the thing I try to avoid when selecting my course load. At the risk of sounding narrow-minded, I have been diligent in checking the last name of the professor before enrolling in the course.

While I know I'm missing out in the long run as many of these foreign professors are leaders and laureates in their fields, not to mention amazing individuals, this is my education we're talking about. College is confusing enough as is and I try to eschew obfuscation as much as possible.

I'll stick with the burnt-out hippie professor with a random sense of humor. At least I know we're speaking the same language.

E-mail Kelly Davis at opinion@lavalleystar.com. Send general comments to valleystar@lavalleystar.com.

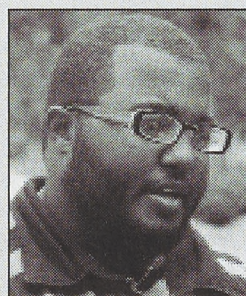
VALLEY VIEW

How do you feel about using lethal injection on those sentenced to the death penalty?



"I remember that quote from Ghandi, 'An eye for an eye makes the world go blind.'"

- MARCOS PEREZ,
POLITICAL SCIENCE



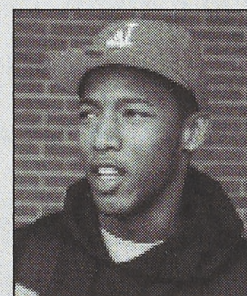
"We should go back to the electric chair and make them really pay for it."

- SHERRON TILLMAN,
CRIMINAL JUSTICE



"I don't think it's cruel and sometimes the death penalties aren't that fair."

- DAISY MENDIETA,
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



"Like the stuff you take when you have the death sentence on you? I'm not big on that."

- GIANNI WASHINGTON-PARKER,
AUDIO ENGINEERING



"They should all just die. They're not good people."

- TRISHA ESGUERRA,
NURSING

PHOTOS BY VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to: editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

LAVC Events

SEPTEMBER

**Wednesday, 22nd
Thursday, 23rd**
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Student Trustee Elections
Sponsored by the Associated Student Union
Monarch Hall
Contact: 818-778-5516

Tuesday, 28th
9:45 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Diversity Awareness Assembly
Sponsored by the LAVC Diversity Committee
Monarch Hall
Contact: 818-778-5633

Wednesday, 29th
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Free Concert Wednesdays sponsored by the LAVC Music Dept.
An open rehearsal with the Kodima String Quartet
M106-Free
Concert Hotline: 818-778-5633

OCTOBER

Saturday, 2nd & 9th

Weekend Workshops for Professionals in the Entertainment Industry
Sponsored by the Institute For Developing Entertainment Arts and Studies (IDEAS).
Campus Center Room 4
-Photoshop CS5 Hands-On 1
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
-Introduction to MS Office '04
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
-Storyboard for Features & TV
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
-InDesign Hands-On 1
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
-Animation Basics
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
<http://www.lavc.edu/IDEAS/index.html>

! THINK TRANSFER

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, 22nd

National University Rep
@ 10 a.m. - 12 Noon
(Monarch Square)

UC TAG Workshop
@ 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, 23rd

UCLA REP
@ 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

UC San Diego
@ 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Monday, 27th

UC Santa Cruz Rep
@ 10 a.m. - Noon

UC TAG Workshop
@ 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 28th

UC TAG Workshop
@ 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

All activities held in the Career/Transfer Center (Administration 126) unless otherwise indicated.

For appointments and further information
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VALLEY MUSIC DEPARTMENT SHOWS OFF ITS TALENTED STAFF

Free Concert Wednesdays starts off the semester with a variety show featuring faculty and alumni.

DAVID MOTTE
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

As a new semester unfolds, music is once again filling the hallways of Valley College's Music Building. And to showcase the many talents behind its walls, the music department faculty joined forces with several alumni Wednesday to perform Valley's first free concert of the semester.

The faculty/alumni variety show consisted of several performances ranging from a Sebastian Bach sonata to a scene from the musical "Guys and Dolls." Newcomer to the staff Dr. Yih-Mei Hu entranced the audience with the ominous and dissonant piano tones of George Crumb and Chopin. Dr. Hu impressed her students with her proficient playing.

"I thought it was really cool," said music major Jack Van Salter. "Dr. Hu is my piano teacher and the pieces she played were excellent."

Alumna Anush Avetisyan returned to Valley's Recital Hall stage to sing "Quel Guardo il Cavaliere" from Gaetano Donizetti's "Don Pasquale." Backed by faculty member HaeSun Pope on the piano, Avetisyan infatuated every male student in the audience with her heart-melting soprano and her confident portrayal of a woman asserting her power to woo.

"I'm very happy to be back on this stage," said Avetisyan, who is now a student at UCLA. "I have some fond memories of standing in

this exact spot."

Piano duties throughout the show alternated between Hu, Pope, and fellow teacher Patricia Hanneman. Other teachers, such as Claire Rydell and Lynn Angebrannt, contributed cello to certain compositions while applied voices teacher Lois Vaccariello donated her lovely soprano to Robert Shumann's "Waldesprach." Ian Lewis played the English horn in a concerto also by Gaetano Donizetti.

The last performance of the afternoon was by music teacher Richard Kahn, who varied things

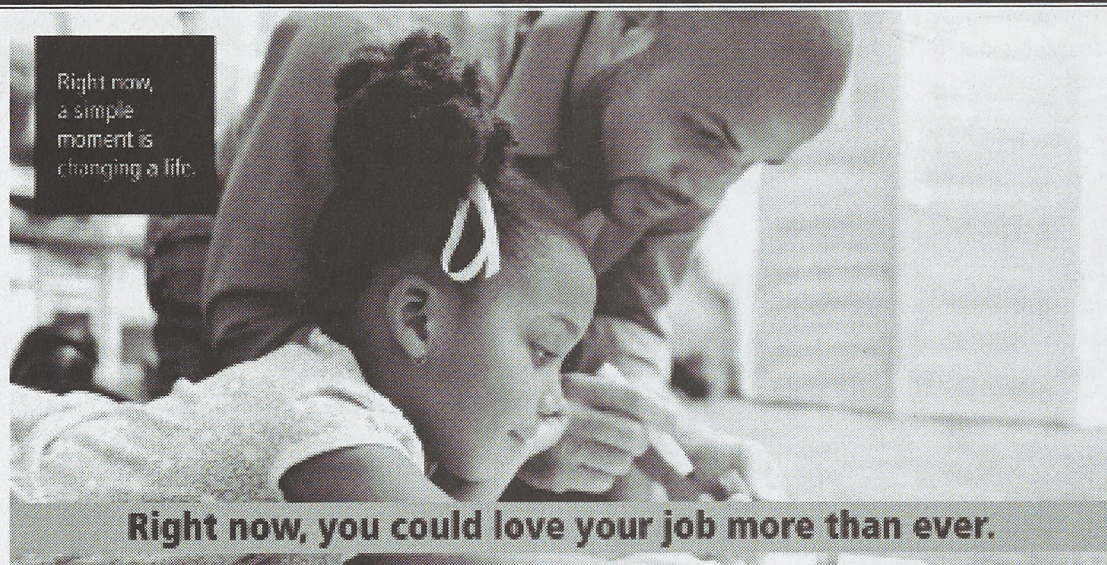
up with the bluesy sounds of John Coltrane on the piano.

"And for dessert today, I'll be serving up some blues," joked Kahn, as he manipulated the piano keys into tapping out the notes to Coltrane's "Bessie's Blues."

Free Concert Wednesdays will continue throughout the semester, every Wednesday at 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in room M106 inside the Music Building. Next week's feature will be "Songs and Duets from Opera and Musical Theatre." For further concert information, visit www.lavc.edu/music or call the new concert hotline at (818) 778-5633.



TOP PHOTO - Lynn Angebrannt (front) and Yih-mei Hu play Antonio Vivaldi's Sonata No. VIII, RV 44.
BOTTOM PHOTO - (L - R) Patricia Hanneman and Claire Rydell play J.S. Bach's Sonata No. 2 for Viola da Gamba.



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BACK TO THE FUTURE

"Easy A" liberally borrows from the past to deliver something original today.

J.P. SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

Even though "Easy A" has enough cheese to put the state of Wisconsin out of commission, the film has enough wit and spark to win over the most jaded of movie goers.

Olive Penderghast (Emma Stone) is another forgetful face going through the rigors of high school. Her otherwise innocuous lie to her best friend about a raunchy weekend is overheard by the most pious student in school, leading to formulaic events, which results in perfect comedic timing and a predictable ending.

Fortunately, what works for "Easy A" is the journey rather than the destination. The romantic-comedy and high school genres have been so rehearsed that movies of the genre should all be named "Popcorn Friendly Unit Shifter" and star Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson or conversely Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens. The fact that the film offers itself to be a reference point for greater films within the genre (John Hughes, for one) is, albeit ironically, more original than the demographic dictated plotlines of the usual film du jour.

The key in doing that for "Easy A" is that the heart of the film deals with universal issues that translate across the board. Adults who may not be able to appreciate high school jocks wanting to dance and sing like tweens, are obviously able to do so, but everyone relates to sexual awkwardness in one form or another. Screenwriter Bert Royal does a great job of having the characters walk a nice tightrope between sardonic cliché and genuinely sweet. The end result is not exactly "realistic" but it definitely hits all the right notes.

The cast is ensemble to say the least. "Easy A" has already transformed Emma Stone from a face to a name. While Stone has been able to carry the one liners in this film as easily as she had in "Superbad" and "Zombieland," there is a noticeable layer of subtlety and depth that makes the character believable if not the storyline.

Stone aside, the adults appear to have more fun than the kids. Thomas Haden Church's deadpan delivery accents the quick dialogue, Lisa Kudrow does a perfect, dead-on Lisa Kudrow (which is still funny) while Stanley Tucci and Patricia Clarkson absolutely steal the show.

While zombies and devils may be dominating the film screens, "Easy A" is a sure fire guilty pleasure.

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN THRILLER DANCE

Local dancers wanted for record-breaking attempt at largest group of dancing zombies.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
STAFF WRITER

Wanted: Zombie die-hards desiring to shimmy, shuffle and stomp their way into the Guinness World Records on October 23, in an attempt to become the largest group of people simultaneously dancing to Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

Thrill the World Los Angeles, part of a worldwide dance effort conceptualized by Canadian choreographer Ines Markelle, is offering free dance lessons throughout Southern California. Valley College students can get their gory groove on at Erwin Street Park, corner of Ethel Avenue and Erwin Street in Valley Glen. The next lesson will be held Sunday, September 26, from 10 a.m. to noon.

"Our mission is to encourage everyone to dance," said Jeremy Stutes, a dance enthusiast who volunteers his time to teach the famed zombie moves to interested dancers of all ages. Aspiring zombies can choose from beginner or advanced lessons, while zealous zombies can attend an instructor's session and learn how to teach the routine to others.

A frightening 112 zombies rose

from the dead for the initial Los Angeles performance at Hollywood and Highland in 2008. By 2009 the group had grown to more than 2,000 dancers writhing in unison at LA Live. Organizers hope even more dancers will rise from the dead for the October event at an as of yet undisclosed location.

To aid in the learning process, step-by-step instructional videos are available on YouTube (www.youtube.com/TTWLosAngeles).

A lesson schedule, official dance script and .mp3 files of "Thriller" at varying speeds can be downloaded at www.thrilltheworldlosangeles.com.

Markelle explains the group's unique teaching strategy in an introductory video.

"We don't use numbered counts like most dance classes. Instead, we use what you're familiar with: words," she said. "Every movement in the dance has a word to go with it. If you can say the words, you can do the dance."

Step sequences have catchy names such as "March Booty Swim," "Shuffle Ha Slide," "Hip N' Roar," and "Oh Snap Rock On."

Lesson schedules are subject to change. Those interested in attending the September 26 lesson are encouraged to contact the instructor, Noelle Andressen-Kale, via email at NoelleTTWLA@gmail.com.

LEARN TO MANAGE YOUR STRESS

The lives of college students don't need to be stressful and unmanageable.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

This semester college students will deal with many issues like parking, assignments, exams, finances, and other extracurricular activities that can increase one's stress factor.

Lindsey Maldonado, animation major at CSUN, made her way to Valley College because all of her classes were not available.

"This last week has been stressful because I was trying to find classes to add and budget cuts are making it difficult," said Maldonado.

For most of the returning college students, experience has already taught them how to handle the most stressful first and final weeks of the semester. New students they must learn to manage college life while balancing their outside life. Good luck and don't

stress too much. College is fast paced and trying to keep up can drive people crazy but there are ways to decrease the chances of that happening.

Avoiding stress can be done by practicing good studying habits and managing time efficiently. Timing is crucial in college life. Smart phone applications are technology's new way of helping people stay organized. Flash cards and a planner-agenda are still great investments. Not allowing enough time to study, sleep and stress can cause chaotic situations. Power naps, deep breathing, exercise, and relaxing music are some of the many activities one can engage in to release tension.

Stress management is very important to succeed during the semester and in living a prosperous life. Chronic stress takes a toll on one's body and has been linked to high blood pressure, increasing chances of a stroke or heart attack and can affect the immune system.

Britney Galvez, Valley College English major, stated, "Don't party too much because it can add to the

stress. Instead go out for some quality time with yourself or read a book."

A social life is an important factor for happiness and going out for a good time is understandable, but college students must learn to say, "No," at times. Prioritizing is the key to future success. Instead of feeling down about missing Happy Hours, be productive with school work and feel good about it. Professors and administration will not be found chasing students around campus for assignments, instead they will be located in classrooms and offices busy and just as stressed with tasks of their own.

If the material in class is difficult, free tutoring is available on campus. The Learning Center, Writing Center, Math Lab, and other tutoring programs are on campus to help. If stress is becoming overwhelming the Health Center advises students to contact the campus psychologist at (818) 778-5504 in order to schedule a session with Dr. Carl King.

SMARTPHONES DISTRACT STUDENTS

Smartphones may seem like a smart buy for many college students, but often they prove to be a major distraction.

ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

Smartphones lure you in with their endless amount of applications and promise to enhance your social networking experience, but never do you see an ad that demonstrates how they are beneficial to college students. You can have Facebook, Twitter, or even iTunes on your phone just as long as you pay an extra \$30 a month for a data plan.

A reason for initially purchasing a smartphone could be to improve organization. It can be very useful and convenient to have access to e-mail on your phone. You can also make use of the calendar and notes section to type homework assignments and test dates into your phone and set reminders. The truth is that we college students don't usually own smartphones for organizational purposes. It's mostly to be able to use the top social networking sites and to explore all the entertaining apps, sometimes while we are in class.

"A smartphone is rarely a necessity for students," said Ron Mossler, psychology professor. "I have no problem with anyone who has one. I just don't want to hear students complain about how they can't afford

text or tuition when they spend over \$30 a month on entertainment."

Blackberries and iPhones are the most commonly known top-selling smartphones. One manufacturer is always trying to out-do the other. The highly anticipated iPhone 4 was released on the market June 24 of this year and iPhone 3GS owners were eager to upgrade to the newer, supposedly better model. The newest Blackberry model, the Blackberry Torch, was released less than two months later on August 12. The Torch attempted to compete with the iPhone 4 by featuring not just a full slide-out QWERTY keyboard, but also a touch-screen and a boatload of new apps. Each phone requires you to pay \$30 a month if you want to be able to use the Internet and all the features the phone has to offer.

Although having e-mail and internet access on our phones may be convenient, the truth is that having a smartphone presents us with a distraction in the classroom. Some people would rather update their Facebook status than pay attention to the professor and take notes. What it comes down to is if you have the self-control to not let your smartphone steal your attention away from class. If you're the type of person who can manage to wait until you're out of class to check your e-mail or browse your Facebook homepage, then purchasing a smartphone might actually be something to consider. But it still isn't a necessity.

STUDENT TUTORS HELP EDUCATE

Monarchs help area high school students achieve college dreams.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College nursing student Raphael Umadall knows the value of a college education. Thanks to his time spent as a Project GRAD tutor, several area high school students have a better understanding of it, too.

Umadall spends up to 20 hours a week tutoring students in math and science and helping them plan for a future that includes attaining a four-year degree. He joined Project GRAD in September 2009 and was assigned to nearby San Fernando High School. He is eager to receive this year's tutoring assignment.

"I enjoy my work," he said. "The students make me want to go to work."

The same might not be said about flipping burgers or waiting tables.

Established in 1999, Project GRAD (Graduation Really Achieves Dreams) is a non-profit organization that works with area public schools to provide academic enrichment and college access programs designed to increase college

readiness, particularly among first-generation college students.

Project GRAD estimates that only 5 percent of adults in the San Fernando Valley hold a four-year degree.

"The goal of Project GRAD is to transform the community into a college-going culture," said Erik Osugi, the organization's vice president and chief program officer. "We make connections and build relationships with students and their families to help raise aspirations to a new level."

Project GRAD joined forces with Valley in 2007. Since then, the campus has recruited and trained nearly 20 student tutors. Nona Matatova, project coordinator for Valley's involvement in Project GRAD, interviews and hires tutors. Her ideal candidate not only excels in math and science, but also has the people skills necessary to effectively interact with middle school and high school students.

"There's more to a successful Project GRAD tutor than a strong academic background," she said.

Our tutors are motivated self-starters who are able to not only advise students on study techniques and help them become independent learners, but are also able to motivate youngsters toward higher education."

Relating to and motivating students is at the core of Umadall's strategy for developing successful relationships with those he tutors.

"The student/teacher relationship isn't always perfect," he said. Many students find us [tutors] more approachable than their teachers. They don't see us as authority figures, so they're more likely to open up." Project GRAD tutors receive an hourly wage of

\$11-\$13 and gain valuable experience in classroom management, group facilitation, public speaking and problem-solving—skills that will benefit them throughout their own academic and professional careers.

"This job is truly rewarding," he said. "These students are the future and when you help teach them, they'll teach you."

PRIME-TIME CRIME

New series hopes to prove that taking on Hollywood is a killer idea.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
STAFF WRITER

Dick Wolf's episodic megahit "Law & Order" takes on the unique attitudes and culture of Hollywood in the upcoming debut of "Law & Order: Los Angeles" (LOLA). Is the ripped-from-the-headlines nature of the show ready for the Wild West's never-ending supply of sex, scandals and celebrity trips to rehab?

The series premieres Sept. 29 at 10 p.m. on NBC.

Skeet Ulrich ("Jericho") plays Rex Winters, a straight-shooting ex-marine who partners with TJ Jaruszalski, played by Corey Stoll ("Midnight in Paris"), who knows the gritty nature of Hollywood's underbelly. The duo play robbery homicide detectives submerged in the behind-the-scenes crimes that sully Tinsel Town's glamorous façade. Terrence Howard ("Ironman") and Alfred Molina ("The Da Vinci Code") round out the cast as justice-seeking deputy district attorneys.

"LOLA" joins a strong history of "Law & Order" programming. The original series, known by fans as "the mothership," had an almost record-breaking run of 20 seasons, tying with "Gunsmoke" for the longest-running primetime drama in television history.

"The best way to describe it is, it's exactly the same as the moth-

ership and totally different," said executive producer Dick Wolf in a promotional interview for NBC.com. "If you liked the original, I don't think there's much question that you'll like this."

A recent survey by TIVO, Inc. revealed that based on future recording habits, suspenseful procedurals such as "LOLA" and "Hawaii Five-O" (CBS) top the list of anticipated new or returning shows.

"There have always been police and detective shows. Even before television there were cheap detective novels at the five and dime," said Rico Castro, administration of justice professor at Valley College. "People have always been fascinated with crime; they love to talk about it and they love to know about it. It's like real high-level gossip - who did it, who got hit by it, and what's going to happen in the future."

In addition to ordering "LOLA," NBC has renewed "Law & Order: SVU" for the 2010-2011 fall lineup, marking the popular show's 12th season return. It seems NBC hopes that crime does pay, as the network is also launching three additional crime/courtroom procedural dramas: "Chase" (Mondays at 9 p.m.), "Undercovers" (Wednesdays at 8 p.m.) and "Outlaw" (Fridays at 10 p.m.).



TWO CENTS FROM SPENCE

HISTORY AS IT HAPPENS

Modern historical films rarely capture the essence that made the initial event great.

J.P. SPENCE



"The Social Network," "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps," "Casino Jack," and "127 hours" are just a few films slated to be released in the upcoming weeks that tackle cultural events of the past few years. The problem with some of the source material is that most of these films haven't had enough time to resonate with history.

"I just wished that nobody made a movie of me while I was still alive," doesn't sound like the person whose likeness has been plastered all over town with the words like "punk genius billionaire" emblazoned on billboards.

You really can't blame Mark Zuckerberg for his candid reaction when asked about the upcoming release of "The Social Network." Written by Aaron Sorkin ("The West Wing") and directed by David Fincher ("The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," "Zodiac") "The Social Network" is adapted from the Ben Mezrich book, "The Accidental Billionaires" which highlights (from one aspect) the genesis of the network juggernaut now known as Facebook.

It has to be somewhat awkward having a film made about you at a relatively early stage in your life but with the universal acclaim of Facebook itself and the subsequent film that is looming, it must be hard for Zuckerberg to not rest on his laurels after virtually receiving the lifetime achievement award at age 26. It's understandable that Facebook has been a game changer, but Zuckerberg surely has plans for the remaining years of his life and this film frames him only to this time period.

Surely no one wants to be

known for just one thing or one accomplishment in their life.

That's just the problem with this film as it has now become with the site itself. The constant posting and updating and, in essence, self mythologizing has led people to only see short term. Before we label Zuckerberg a punk, genius, or billionaire, it would be better to have a little more perspective of what the actual gain or fallout of Facebook would be.

There is nothing wrong with making films that add hindsight to how our culture has developed. One film to champion would be the Oliver Stone sequel "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps." Brick-sized cell phones aside, to watch the first film in light of the epic stock market crash and the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers in 2008 is as shocking as it is ironic. The paradigm shift from '80s consumerism to modern day conservatism is night and day. In this case we are able to see the fallout of how "greed is good" and the effects that has on us today.

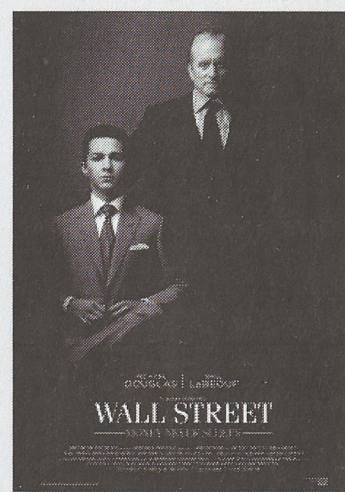
There needs to be time and gravitas added to give these films context. With the exception of "All The President's Men" there hasn't been a modern historical piece that gave true resonance. After the events of September 11, moviegoers were treated shortly thereafter with "United 93." Even though "United 93" was an exceptional film, there just wasn't enough time for the public conscious to recover, and the film did poorly.

It's ironic that these modern historicals are made in the first place to tell a great story that eventually gets transformed and adapted while essentially robbing the film of its inherent drama. It's like the only thing better than non-fiction is fiction serving as non-fiction.

E-mail J.P. Spence at Managing@lavalleystar.com Send general comments to valleystar@lavalleystar.com



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- ROBERT PLANT- BAND OF JOY

CONCERTS & THEATRE



- JIMMY EAT WORLD: SEPT. 29 THE WILTERN
- SPOON: SEPT. 30 HOLLYWOOD PALLADIUM
- PAVEMENT: SEPT. 30 HOLLYWOOD BOWL
- THE SWORD: OCT. 1 EL REY
- CARIE UNDERWOOD: OCT. 2 HOLLYWOOD BOWL
- BAD COMPANY: OCT. 2 LA COUNTY FAIR
- GUIDED BY VOICES: OCT. 4 THE WILTERN
- SLASH W/ MYLES KENNEDY: OCT. 5 HOUSE OF BLUES

MONARCHS HIT THE BOOKS

Balancing school, work and practice isn't as easy as it sounds.

IVAN ZUNIGA
ONLINE EDITOR

Imagine waking up every morning after studying all night, then going to practice in the morning, then doing it all over again for a whole semester. For Sean Merrick it's a daily routine he has to deal with in order to be part of the men's water polo team.

Sports requires a lot of determination and dedication. If a student-athlete can't handle the pressure they can find themselves ineligible to play their sport for an entire season.

It's also required that each athlete take 24 units before their second season, and if they are unable to do that they will be ineligible to play. This is part of the 40-60-80 rule, which clearly states that each athlete must have 40 percent of their degree requirements met by their second year, 60 percent their third year and 80 percent in their fourth year.

According to Athletic Director Diedra Stark, "They have three commitments that they have to make in order to be eligible: they have to go to their classes, they have to be full-time students, and they have to have a 2.0 grade point average."

For some that may not sound like a lot, but for student-athletes finding time for homework and studying in between everyday practices can be a challenge.

"It's kind of hard when we have morning practice every day. We have to get up at 5 a.m. get here at 6 a.m., and it's hard trying to do homework all night when you have to come early and practice," said Merrick, point player from the men's water polo team. "Basically you have to suck it up and stay up late studying."

Since Fall 2007 the Athletic Study Hall has offered help to student-athletes with individual help for any course. The study hall is equipped with computers with internet access and is open Monday through Friday. Places like the learning center and writing center also offer help, so student-athletes have the option to get the help and counseling they need.

"Coaches are always the first line of help," Stark said. "They can go to their coaches and they will assist them ... also counselors on campus are helping some of our student-athletes. We encourage them to go and learn, it's not a big deal to go walk into the writing center; if you need some help you will get some help."

With the variety of help available for student-athletes they can rest assured with the challenges that come in their way that Valley coaches and counselors give their full support each season.

LANCERS RUN THROUGH MONARCHS



SURROUNDED - A Valley receiver fights for yards in Saturday night's game against Pasadena City College. The Monarchs lost 17-34 against the Lancers.

Valley lost 34-17 Saturday against the Pasadena City College Lancers (#12).

LUCAS THOMPSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Valley College Monarchs played for the second week in a row without starting quarterback Dan Owen, Saturday. The team lost 34-17 against the Pasadena City College Lancers. Owen, according to Head Trainer Angelo Cimity, will play this weekend against the San Diego Mesa Olympians.

"They're a good team," Head Coach Jim Fenwick said about the Lancers. "They have a lot of depth and they have a lot of speed. With all of our injuries we battled with them ... we just didn't stay with them the

last six minutes of the game. We knew it would be a challenge going into the game."

The Lancer's opening drive resulted in a quick six with 11:27 left in the first quarter. The touchdown came off a 1-yard run by Telvin McMillan.

The Monarchs also scored in the first quarter from a 33-yard field goal from kicker Augustin Flores. Though the Monarchs posted 300 yards of total offense, getting into the end zone and stopping the Lancer's multiple threats on offense ultimately lost Valley the game.

In the opening minute of the second quarter, the Lancers posted yet another touchdown when Kemonte Bateman returned a punt for 52 yards and the score. With 5:40 left in the half, kicker Brian Gonzalez punched in one of his two field goals during the game, giving

the Lancers a 16-3 lead going into halftime.

Pasadena wasted no time in the second half on an eight-play, 68-yard drive that ended on a 5-yard pass from Nick Owen to wide-receiver Devance Harris. Harris had 73 receiving yards on the night.

The Monarchs finally found the end zone with 5:05 left in the third quarter off a 21-yard run by quarterback Morey Croson. Croson, normally a wide receiver, threw for 152 yards and two interceptions. The Valley defense stopped Pasadena on their next possession, giving the Monarchs the ball late in the third. With 14:48 left in the game Croson threw a 51-yard touchdown pass to Valley receiver Marquel Henderson bringing the Monarchs within five points of the Lancers, 17-23.

The Monarchs' inexperience, however, left them scoreless

throughout the remainder of the game. The rest of the Valley possessions resulted in turnovers or punts, as the Lancers were able to post another touchdown and field goal before the final seconds ticked off the scoreboard. A nine-yard rush from Lancer's running back Danny Robinson and 35-yard field goal from Gonzalez gave the Lancers a 17-34 victory.

The Monarchs play the San Diego Mesa Olympians this Saturday at home. Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m.

"We are just trying to eliminate mistakes ... some of the kids are new at their positions," Fenwick said of their preparation this week. "We are working, trying not to give up punt returns and fumbled snaps ... we're trying to get better, that's what we have control of. We can't take anybody for granted."

VALLEY WATER POLO FALLS TO CERRITOS

The men's water polo team lost 15-16, at home, against Cerritos College on Thursday.

JOSHUA LAWRENCE
STAFF WRITER

Facing a tough Cerritos team on Thursday that is known for causing turnovers, the men's water polo team played as a unit, but could not stop the Falcons from coming out on top, 16-15.

"We played hard. We didn't give up," Head Coach Jim McMillan said. "This game was a great learning experience for the team."

The 82-degree weather was perfect for the afternoon game. Cerritos scored early in the first quarter off one of Valley's many turnovers. However, the Monarchs quickly answered and gained the advantage with multiple goals off of man-up situations, the first coming from driver Corby Cordobes.

The Monarchs led 11-9 going



THROW - Valley College player Jeffery Volosin sizes up the Cerritos' defense centered on goalie Pedro Rodriguez during Thursday's home game.

into halftime. The turnover ratio was in their favor and goalie Trevor McHugh made several key saves to help keep their lead. Unfortunately, the turnover ratio slowly fell into Cerritos' favor as Valley could not keep a hold on the ball and committed over 15

turnovers in the second half.

"We really need to work on our defense. You can't win a game when you allow the other team to score 16 goals. Our offense was pretty solid, but we just had too many turnovers," said Monarch driver Sean Merrick. Merrick led

the team with five goals, followed by driver Will Pinney with three.

With 3:20 left in the fourth quarter a controversial five-meter shot was called, even though the referee initially called for an ejection on driver Westen Lawton. McMillan was up in arms over the sudden call change but had to sit and watch as the Falcons took the lead with a shot from Isaac Ogloblin with three minutes to go in the final quarter.

Valley came back to even the score at 14 but could not establish a lead as the Falcons put up two more goals. With two minutes left in the game, Valley managed to score another goal off of a man-up situation. Down by one, the Monarchs could not gain possession of the ball, as the Falcons were able to effectively play keep away.

The Monarchs, 4-6, look to improve their record while on the road, Wednesday against Ventura.

"We just had too many mental mistakes. We need to work on not turning the ball over and not allowing 16 goals," McMillan said.

PASSION AND BONDS ARE KEY COMPONENTS FOR MONARCH DANCE TEAM

The predominantly new cheer team focuses on their bonds with each other and their joy of dance.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

Taking a step into the Monarch Spirit Dance Team's practice, with loud music playing and three-year coach Rachel Paul clapping and counting to the beat, there are two things that radiate: the energetic bond that the students have for each other and a passion for dance. Even at the end of practice there are still smiles

all around and waves of goodbye.

Coached by Rachel Paul and led by captains Sara Thompson and Mikaela David, the 17 student-athletes are a close-knit group.

"We take things from each other and we grow," first-year member Jenn Padilla said.

Better known as the cheer team at Valley, the Monarch Spirit Dance Team helps keep the enthusiasm during the football games and other sporting events. This year the team also made an appearance for the first time at the school's "Welcome Week Day."

"We're no longer strictly cheerleaders," explained Paul. "It's mainly a song-pom team now."

The team practices every Monday and Wednesday for three hours and a couple of hours before the games.

"Every game is exciting for us because we always have a new half-time show," David said. "Even the old members are learning from the new ones ... there's a lot of give and take."

This year, Paul has a team that is composed of mainly new cheerleaders with only four returning. But, that doesn't stop the team from being the best.

They want to get better and they want to learn. They're good kids ... I enjoy their company," Paul said.

However, the team makes sure

that aside from their love of dance, they also have a chance to get to know each other outside of campus.

"We decided that we wanted to get together and do something," said Padilla. According to new member Torie Zastrow, the teammates all gathered at her house for a potluck dinner.

Coach Paul has been coaching at Valley for three years and has coached championship dance squads from UCLA and Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks. Paul's main focus is to help them grow as dancers and mentor them.

"Rachel is an awesome coach," said Thompson.

Paul enjoys coaching at Valley,

especially since she has built the program from the ground up.

"I like the maturity of the students ... and I get to watch the potential grow," Paul said.

Paul has certainly seen potential grow since she has been at Valley; even some of her students have continued on to dance at UCLA and CSUN.

"Growing as a dancer is top priority," Zastrow said.

To see their Spirit Dance Team in action, students can check them out at the next games when the Monarch Football team plays the San Diego Mesa Olympians on September 25 at home at 6 p.m.

ANALYZE THIS

SOMBODY GET THIS GUY A WHEELCHAIR

Brett Favre returning for yet another season may show why some athletes should call it quits.

LUCAS THOMPSON



Let's be honest.

The return of Brett Favre to professional football for his 20th NFL season has done nothing more than inspire grandpas, little league coaches, and Rogaine users everywhere to pick up the pig skin one more time.

This wasn't the case, for me at least, until he came out with a look of exhaustion during his press conference Sunday after a 14-10 loss at home against the Miami Dolphins.

"It's just hard to repeat those type of numbers and statistics and it's hard to repeat wins," Favre said in an interview on FoxSports.com regarding the Viking's 2009 season, which led to the NFC title game.

No it's not. It can't be. We are talking about Brett Favre here, he wears superman leggings under his Wrangler jeans, he takes hits from semi-trucks for breakfast and throws game winning Hail Mary's into the end-zone for lunch ... well at least he did.

According to FoxSports.com, Favre had his worst game as a Viking on Sunday against the Dolphins with a 44.3 percent passer rating and three interceptions at the Meadowlands. He threw three interceptions and accounted for four Viking turnovers.

Granted, the Vikings have been plagued with injuries including a questionable Percy Harvin, and injured Sidney Rice, but Favre has always found a way.

Maybe the slow start of the Vikings and Favre can be solely attributed to him, once again, missing training camp while he decided whether or not he should take up golf as a full-time sport or check out the senior citizen rates at the movie theatres around Minnesota.

An off-season surgery combined with missing training camp, for a 40-year-old NFL player (in human years this is about 79), is enough for anyone to have a slow start. Just ask Darrell Revis who missed all of the Jets training camp holding out for more money. He is out for at least five weeks after a hamstring injury Sunday, according to MSNBC.com.

The bottom line: if you think it may be time to retire ... maybe you should. Future hall-of-famer Brett Favre will always be remembered as one of the best, hardworking, guys with the biggest hearts; unfortunately for him and his many fans, myself included, this season could taint the legacy he once had.

My hope is that Favre picks up the pace and gathers that energy we have always known. My concern is, as a fan, that I may have to watch a legend take unnecessary hits, throw an array of picks, and end his career and final season with a losing record. This Sunday the Vikings face the Detroit Lions at the Meadowlands. I will be in front of a flat screen somewhere rooting, hoping that the Favre of the past shows up to play.

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